

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s) : Paul Birkmeyer et al.

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Entitled : SPINAL FIXATION ELEMENTS AND  
METHODS

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Certificate of Mailing (37 C.F.R. 1.8(a))

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being electronically filed via EFS-Web to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date set forth below.

July 10, 2006

By: 

Date of Signature and Mail Deposit

Lisa Adams, Reg. No: 44,238  
Attorney for Applicant(s)Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 and attached hereto (copies of any U.S. Patents and Publications cited are not provided as this application was filed after June 30, 2003).


It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the reference be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) exists, and in accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure statement shall not be construed to be an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits as far as is known to the undersigned (37 CFR 1.97(b)(3)), and thus no fees are

believed to be due. The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 141449, under Order No. 101896-240.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 10, 2006



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